

REPORT.

The Committee on Agriculture having been instructed to enquire into the expediency of abolishing the office of Inspector of Guano, and to examine the report and statement of the Inspector, beg leave to report that they have given the subject a full and thorough investigation and respectfully submit the following report:

They find from an examination of the history of the law regulating the inspection of Guano, that up to the last session of the Legislature in 1854, it had not afforded that protection to the consumers which their interests demanded. At that time, complaints from the farmers of the State had become very general, and in the Legislature, efforts were made to repeal the law or amend or alter it so as to accomplish the object for which it was designed. After much discussion, we find by the journal of the last session, that the present law was unanimously passed in both branches, prescribing the mode of inspection and requiring the Inspector to make a classification of the different varieties of Guano, and to adopt such marks as should indicate the quality of the Guano contained in the particular bag or barrel, bearing the mark. Tables of these were required to be published, as also the analysis of each cargo, with the name of the vessel in which it was imported, and heavy penalties were imposed upon persons who should counterfeit the marks of the Inspector, use packages previously used, having the Inspector's mark thereon, or who should sell Guano not bearing the Inspection mark. This law in all its details was intended to give that protection to the farmers of the State which their interests demanded.

When the amount of money expended by the farmers in the purchase of these expensive fertilizers is considered, and the labor required for their application to the land, and the fact that thousands of the tillers of the soil in many parts of our State,